

The background features a dark green field with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent triangles of varying shades. A wide, horizontal band of bright orange with a fine, woven texture runs across the middle of the image. The word "Printmaking" is centered within this orange band.

Printmaking

History of Printmaking

- Before the printing press, printmaking was not considered an art form, rather a medium of communication.
- Engraving goes back to cave art, executed on stones, bones, and cave walls.
- The duplication of engraved images goes back some 3,000 years to the Sumerians who engraved designs on stone and cylinder seals.
- Academics believe that the Chinese produced a primitive form of print, the rubbing, as far back as the 2nd cent. AD.
- The Japanese made authenticated prints, wood block rubbings of Buddhist charms, in the late – middle 8th cent.

Why Printmaking...

- With the exception to monotyping, Artist choose printmaking because of it's ability to produce multiple images or “impressions” of one subject.
- Each piece is not a copy, rather considered an original since it is an impression, with each one having it's own unique qualities.

Types of Printmaking

- Serigraphy, Silk Screen, or Screen Printing
- Lithography
- Intaglio
- Monotype / Monoprint
- Woodcut and linocut

Serigraphy, Silk Screen, or Screen Printing

- Prints are created by using a fabric stencil technique, (often silk fabric) which ink is applied to. The ink is pushed through the stencil against the surface of a piece of paper
- Ink is pushed through the stencil against the surface of the paper or fabric, most often with the aid of a squeegee.
- Common uses of serigraphy are screen printed t-shirt designs.
- In the 1970's 1980's Pop art artists such as: Andy Warhol, Bridget Riley, and Roy Lichtenstein used this technique to create mass produced images.

Lithography

- A technique invented in 1798 by Alois Senefelder and based on the chemical repulsion of oil and water.
- Artist use a porous surface, usually limestone and draw on it with a **greasy** medium such as a litho crayon.
- Acid is then applied transferring the image into the stone.
- Once a water based substance is applied, it seals the stone and leaves the greasy – drawn area to be inked and printed.
- Lithography artists included, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, Henri de Toulouse – Lautrec, Salvador Dali, and M. C. Escher.

Intaglio

- Involves the use of a metal plate.
- Through Intaglio, artist can use a wide variety of techniques to produce many different effects.
- Drypoint etching involves scratching the surface with a metal needle like tool. For deeper etched lines artists may dip their plate into an acid bath to create deeper bites.
- Mezzotint allows artists to get a wider variety of tones by burnishing the plate.
- In the Aquatint process rosin is sprayed onto the plate surface then put through an acid bath.

Monotype / Monoprint

- Unlike the rest, prints can be created from a variety of processes however only impression can be made. Thus the prefix “mono”
- Some examples of this technique could include hand painted editions, collagraph, collage, and a form of tracing by which thick ink is laid down on a table, paper is placed on the ink, and the back of the paper is drawn on, transferring the ink to the paper.

Woodcut and Linocut

- Woodcut was one of the earliest printmaking techniques and was probably first developed as a means of printing patterns on cloth.
- Unlike the woodcut, linocut has only been around since the development of linoleum around the late 1800's.
- In these types of “relief” printing, artists carve in a block of wood or block of linoleum. The areas that are raised is what will be printed.

Printing

- To print, the linoleum sheet or block of wood is inked with a roller, called a **brayer**.
- The actual printing can be done with a press or by hand.
- By hand, the block is rubbed with a **baren**, spoon, or hand to transfer the ink to the paper or fabric.

Printmaking Unit

- Using Art Gum erasers, create a series of 5 stamp designs.
 - 4 from the 1x1x1 eraser size
 - 1 from the 2x1x1 eraser size
 - Print stamp designs onto a piece of paper.
- Using a linoleum block create a relief subject to print.
 - Create an “edition” of 4 prints from your block.